

REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF TWENTY
CONCERNING PLANS FOR THE
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Interchurch World Movement
OF
North America



JANUARY
1919

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TWENTY

On December 17, 1918, one hundred and thirty-five representatives of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and allied agencies met in conference in New York City at the call of the Foreign Board of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to consider the advisability and feasibility of a united campaign. The entire day was spent in the consideration of this question and it was unanimously agreed that the time was ripe for such a campaign.

A committee of twenty was appointed to outline a plan to be submitted to the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, the Home Missions Council, the Council of Church Boards of Education, the Sunday School Council, the Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions and the Council of Women for Home Missions.

This Committee presents the following report to these agencies for approval and favorable recommendation to their constituent bodies: That there be organized

THE INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT OF NORTH AMERICA

I. Purpose

To present a unified program of Christian service and to unite the Protestant churches of North America in the performance of their common task, thus making available the values of spiritual power which come from unity and coordinated Christian effort and meeting the unique opportunities of the new era.

II. Interests Included

While primarily a Home and Foreign Missionary Movement, the movement is to be broad enough to cover all those interests in the United States and Canada outside of the local church budget which are naturally related to the missionary enterprise through national agencies—denominational or interdenominational.

III. Methods

1. Organization

(1) National

- a. General Committee of approximately one hundred.
- b. Executive Committee not to exceed fifteen.
- c. Canadian Council.

(The questions involved in the movement that are peculiar to the Dominion of Canada, should be referred to the Canadian Council.)

(2) State and Local

The organization throughout the country in each state and local community of all the Christian forces into some form of inter-church committee or federation.

2. Survey

A thorough united survey of the home and foreign fields of the world for the purpose of securing accurate and complete data as to what ought to be done by the combined churches to meet the needs of the hour, and of at least the next five years.

3. Education and Publicity

A thorough going educational and publicity campaign to carry the facts of the survey to the entire Protestant church constituency in America and to every mission station throughout the world where the churches of North America are at work.

4. Field Campaign

A field campaign for the purpose of arousing the church to a realization of the urgency of united effort in meeting the needs of the community, the nation and the world, and of inspiring and organizing the Christian forces to undertake an adequate world program. This field campaign to include a series of regional conferences to be begun at the earliest possible moment, followed by conventions and training conferences throughout the country, to acquaint the churches with the message, plans and methods of the Interchurch World Movement of North America, to appeal for the resources of spiritual power, life and money called for by the survey and to organize all the forces for the carrying out of their full part of the program.

5. United Budget and Treasury

A united budget which shall constitute the financial objective and which shall be presented to the constituency of the cooperating agencies together with the educational and spiritual objectives of the movement. It is clearly understood that the united movement shall not displace or interfere with the autonomy and responsibility of administration of the cooperating agencies, and it is urged that all funds should be sent as far as possible directly to the treasurers of such agencies from their natural constituencies, but in view of the necessity of provision for receiving and distributing any funds that might be con-

tributed to it without being sent through denominational treasurers a central treasury be established to which funds given for the united budget, but contributed through ordinary church channels, may be reported by the cooperating agencies, and through which donors who so elect may contribute directly to the united budget. The functions of this central treasury shall not be administrative but to assemble and report the financial facts connected with the campaign, disburse funds for the common expenses of the campaign, and serve as a clearing house between the cooperating agencies in order to insure to each its pro rata share of the funds secured, as agreed on in advance by its percentage in the united budget.

6. Financial Drive

A united financial campaign in the spring of 1920, or whenever, in the judgment of the leaders of the movement the churches are sufficiently prepared, to secure the funds shown by the survey to be needed to carry through the world program on an efficiency basis.

7. Conservation and Extension

A conservation and extension program to be worked out as the movement progresses to insure the sustained cooperation of all the forces involved.

8. Expenses of the Movement

The movement to be financed out of funds secured and not by direct assessment upon the participating bodies.

IV. Immediate Steps

If and when the foregoing proposals shall have been recommended for submission by the Foreign Missions Conference and Home Missions Council to their participating bodies, the Committee of Twenty shall proceed to complete the organization by choosing members of the general committee who shall act with full authority to carry out the foregoing proposals.

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